

Application No. 10/735,646

In the claims:

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OCT 05 2006

1. (currently amended) A spinal disc prosthesis comprising:
 - an outer case adapted for attachment to spinal structure of a body;
 - a cartridge removably mounted in said outer case; and
 - a shock absorbing core within the cartridge, wherein said shock absorbing core is in a shape of a Belleville washer.
2. (original) The spinal disc prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein said cartridge is releasably locked to said outer case.
3. (original) The spinal disc prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein an outer surface of said outer case is coated with a bone-growth-encouraging material.
4. (original) The spinal disc prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein an outer surface of said outer case comprises at least one anchoring element.
5. (original) The spinal disc prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein said shock absorbing core comprises an elastomer material.
6. (original) The spinal disc prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein said shock absorbing core comprises a fluid shock-absorbing material.
7. (original) The spinal disc prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein said shock absorbing core comprises materials with different resilient properties.
8. (original) The spinal disc prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein said shock absorbing core is at least partially surrounded by an elastomeric ring.
9. (original) The spinal disc prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein said outer case comprises an upper plate and a lower plate attachable to spinal structure of a body.
10. (new) A spinal disc prosthesis comprising:
 - an outer case adapted for attachment to spinal structure of a body, a cartridge removably mounted in said outer case, said cartridge comprising upper and lower housing halves, and a shock absorbing core which is disposed within the cartridge and which is at least partially surrounded by an elastomeric ring, wherein said elastomeric ring is fixed to said upper and lower housing halves by means of a mortise-and-tenon joint.
11. (new) A spinal disc prosthesis comprising:
 - an outer case comprising upper and lower plates adapted for attachment to spinal structure of a body, a cartridge removably mounted in said outer case, said cartridge comprising upper and lower housing halves that are slidingly attached to said upper and lower plates, and a shock absorbing core within the cartridge.